

WATER Center
101 E. Pawnee
Wichita, KS 67211
Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Closed Holidays
(316) 337-9262
Fax (316) 337-9266
www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/



H2O Happenings Observations

A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center

January - March 2007

Volume 2, Issue 1

Winter is for the Birds



Winter is a wonderful season for viewing birds at the WATER Center. The leaves are off the trees and northern birds have migrated into Wichita. Take the time to view some of the park's feathered visitors. Here are three checklists for the birds commonly seen at the Center during winter:

Water Birds

The ducks can often be seen along the creek in Herman Hill Park. If you are looking for gulls and herons, walk down to the Arkansas River.

- ___ Mallard Duck
- ___ Wood Duck
- ___ Canada Goose
- ___ Belted Kingfisher
- ___ Great Blue Heron

Raptors

Bald eagles are seen in the park through mid-February. Watch for them in the morning hours in the cottonwood tree that line the riverbank.

- ___ Redtail Hawk
- ___ Bald Eagle
- ___ American Kestrel

Songbirds and Others

Many of the smaller birds can be found in the stands of sunflowers and grasses along the creek.

- ___ American Crow
- ___ Junco
- ___ Cardinal
- ___ European House Sparrow
- ___ Ringneck Dove

Indoor Aquarium Exhibit Complete: Interpretive Signs Installed

A \$5000 grant from the Forrest C. Lattner Foundation helped complete the WATER Center's aquarium exhibit.

Three new interpretive signs are on permanent display in the WATER Center's exhibit room. Designed by Taylor Studios Inc., the signs were funded predominantly through a grant from the Forrest C. Lattner Foundation. The grant was combined with other general donations to complete the project.

Learn about how aquatic wildlife are indicators of water quality plus other "wet" topics from this new display.



What's Inside?

- Water Spot Workshop for Adults
- Spring Break Activities
- Senior Wednesday
- Meetings and Events
- Program Schedule

What's New? Fishy Additions



New specimens were added to the outdoor aquarium in late 2006. Collected from the Arkansas River, the new fish are adapting well to their home at the WATER Center.

Fish additions include:
Black Buffalo

Ictiobus niger

River Carpsucker

Carpiodes carpio

Quillback

Carpiodes cyprinus

Shorthead Redhorse

Moxostoma macrolepidotum

Wiper (hybrid)

Morone chrysops x *M. saxatilis*



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The WATER Center


is located in:

Herman Hill Park

Open daily sunrise to sunset
18-hole disc golf course
Accessible trails
Playground equipment
Picnic areas



Skateboarding, swimming and
fishing are prohibited



PROGRAM REGISTRATION

~ Registration Will Close 5 Days Before the Program Date~

Participant Name: _____ Circle one: M F

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____

E-mail: _____

Please Check one: ☒ Over 18 years old ☐ Under 18, what age: _____

Parent/Leader Name: _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND THESE PROGRAMS:

	DATE	PROGRAM	TIME	AGE	COST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	February 6	Fish Tales	10 AM	Ages 2-6	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	February 16	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	March 13	Fish Tales	10 AM	Ages 2-6	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	March 16	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	March 19	Paint with the Earth	2-4 PM	Grades 4-12	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	March 20	Go In-Seine!	2-4 PM	Grades 5-8	\$2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	March 23	Water Safari	2-3 PM	Grades K-3	\$2

REGISTRATION COMPLETION:

Program Fee Totals _____. Make check payable to the **WATER Center**.
Mail Registration and Fees to: **PROGRAMS, WATER Center,**
101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211
Or Fax: **316-337-9266**



Printed on Recycled Paper



Youth Volunteer Days are for children **ages 8-15** years old and space is limited.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

There will be youth volunteer activities from **1 p.m. until 3 p.m.** on the following days:

Friday, February 16th
Project: Weather permitting – clean the fountains. Wear clothes that can get wet and bring dry ones to change into.

Friday, March 16th
Project: Assist staff with the upcoming newsletter.

**CALL TO REGISTER
SPACE IS LIMITED
316-337-9262**

Meetings & Events

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the following meetings held each month at the WATER Center.

January

8th Arkansas River Coalition
6:30-9:30 PM

10th Wichita Area Paddlers
6:30-9:00 PM

10th District III Advisory Board
6:30-9:30 PM

February

7th District III Advisory Board
6:30-9:30 PM

14th Wichita Area Paddlers
6:30-9:00 PM

March

7th District III Advisory Board
6:30-9:30 PM

12th Arkansas River Coalition
6:30-9:30 PM

14th Wichita Area Paddlers
6:30-9:00 PM

Program Schedule

Youth Events

FISH TALES

Second Tuesday of the Month
February 6th and March 13th
10:00 AM, Ages 2-6, Free

No registration needed

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature surprise! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

Friday, February 16th
Thursday, December 21st
1:00 – 3:00 PM, Ages 8-15, Free

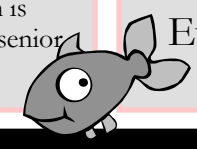
Pre-registration required

Help the museum staff with WATER Center projects.

Attention High School Students:

Applications for the 2007 Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology program are due to AFS on **February 15th**! Contact the American Fisheries Society at: www.fisheries.org.

The Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program is a summer mentoring program for high school students sponsored by the American Fisheries Society. The principal goal of the Hutton Program is to stimulate interest in careers in fisheries science and management among groups underrepresented in the fisheries professions, including minorities and women. Application to the program is open to all sophomore, junior, and senior high school students.



SPRING BREAK PROGRAMS

Registration Required ~ Space is Limited

PAINT WITH THE EARTH

Monday, March 19th, 2-4 PM
Grades: 4-12, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Soil is one of our most important resources in Kansas. It is responsible for healthy crops, diverse prairies and rich wetlands. The colors and textures of native soils vary dramatically across the state. Create a painting using a variety of Kansas' soils.

GO IN-SEINE!

Tuesday, March 20th, 2-4 PM
Grade: 5-8th, Fee: \$ 2.00

Pre-registration required

How many kinds of fish are in the river? What is the most common...the most rare? Think you know? Slip on some waders and go seining with the WATER Center staff to discover the answers.

WATER SAFARI

Friday, March 23rd, 2-3 PM
Grade: K-3rd, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Be an urban explorer! How do the city creatures get their water? We will make a nature journal and go on a wildlife safari in Herman Hill Park.

FISH FEEDINGS

Every Monday and Friday
3:00 PM

~Senior Wednesdays~
Adults 50+ ~ No Registration Required

SUPPLYING DRINKING WATER FOR A CITY

by Vernon Strasser
Wednesday, February 7th
1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

What does it take to provide a constant safe supply of water for a City? Learn about the production and testing required.

RIVER ECOLOGY

By Vaughn Weaver
Wednesday, March 7th
1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Learn about the complex ecology of our river system and see some of the “macro-scopic” river-residents upclose!

Ripple Effects

“For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.”
~ Sir Isaac Newton

2007 looks to be an exciting year for the WATER Center. There will be new education exhibits installed and a colorful trail guide created for use in the park. Make plans to visit the Center this year, sign up for a program, walk the trails, or just come to see the fish.

We look forward to seeing new faces and old! ~ Libby and Kay D.

Water-Spout Workshop for Adults

This is not just a workshop for science teachers! It is for anyone interested in exploring math, literature, social studies, service learning, art, or science using water as a learning tool!

This workshop is sponsored by the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE), the City of Wichita and the WATER Center.

If you work with groups that are looking for community service opportunities; are an educator or youth leader looking for hands-on, cross-curricular activities for your students; or are someone looking for great service learning & environmental education project ideas...THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR YOU!!

During this workshop, participants will be introduced to service learning, service learning opportunities, and some of Wichita's natural resources.

Participants will receive training in Project WET, a water education program that promotes critical thinking, problem solving, and responsible decision-making in water-related issues; WET in the City, a water education program that compliments the materials in Project WET by providing urban-focused activities and additional information to meet the unique needs of urban educators; and the new Waterspout Gardens Curriculum.

These materials include activities for children of all ages.



Participants will receive the activity guides for Project WET and WET in the City, as well as the Waterspout Curriculum and other resource materials. Workshop fee is \$35.

To register or receive additional information, please contact:

Beth Carreno
Coordinator of Education Programs
KACEE
1315 SW High Ave
Topeka, KS 66604
Phone: 785-233-4721
bcarreno@kacee.org
www.kacee.org

The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services
“Protecting Health – Preserving the Environment”

D. Kay Johnson
Department Director

WATER Center Staff

Libby Albers
lalbers@wichita.gov
316-337-9262
Environmental Services Specialist

Kay Drennen
kdrennen@wichita.gov
316-337-9264
Water Resources Analyst



Professor Water Fantastic Facts About H₂O

Join zany Professor Water and his sidekick as they explore Niagara Falls, the South Pole, and Death Valley to learn about the water cycle, drinking water treatment, water conservation, and more.

This video was produced by the American Water Works Association.



Did You Know?

If all the earth's water fit in a gallon jug, available fresh water would equal just over a tablespoon.

~Water Partners International